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		9/13/82
TO: (Name, office symbol, room number, building, Agency/Post)	Initials	Date
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Action	File	Note and Return
Approval	For Clearance	Per Conversation
As Requested	For Correction	Prepare Reply
Circulate	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> For Your Information	See Me
Comment	Investigate	Signature
Coordination	Justify	

REMARKS

For your information, per our telephone conversation.

DO NOT use this form as a RECORD of approvals, concurrences, disposals, clearances, and similar actions



UNITED STATES GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20548

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OFFICE OF SECURITY & Safety

Trouner
Joseph Trouner
Office of Security
Department of Justice
10th & Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20599

Dear Mr. Trouner:

The nature of GAO's mission requires that GAO auditors/evaluators, from time-to-time, obtain classified information originated by various Government agencies.

GAO follows the guidelines set forth in Executive Order 10450, as amended, to insure that classified information is entrusted only to those individuals who have been shown to be trustworthy, reliable, of good conduct and character, and loyal to the United States. Our primary objective is to insure that the criteria and basis for granting access authorizations is consistent with other Federal agencies. Additionally, we want to insure that our program is comparable with other agencies when authorizing access to sensitive, but unclassified information.

In view of this, it is requested that a copy of your agency's internal personnel security directive be provided to this agency. Directives forwarded will be used by our security staff for reference purposes only. It is also requested that we be added to the distribution list for receiving changes or revisions to the publication(s) furnished to us. This material should be addressed to:

Director, Office of Security and Safety (OSS)
Room 4844
U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO)
441 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20548

If you have any questions or if we can be of assistance in your security program efforts, please do not hesitate to contact us on 275-4700.

Again, thank you for any information you can provide.

Sincerely yours,

Arthur A. Klekner
Arthur A. Klekner
Director

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Memorandum

August 9, 1982

TO : *B-197006-O.M. }
B-205172-O.M. }*
Director, Office of Security and Safety - Arthur A. Klekner

FROM : Acting General Counsel *Fa* - Harry R. Van Cleave *[Signature]*

SUBJECT: Applicability of Executive Orders to GAO's Information Security Program and GAO's Authority to Issue Access Authorizations--
B-197006-O.M. and B-205172-O.M.

This responds to your memoranda dated October 9 and November 17, 1981, questioning whether GAO is bound by the requirements of Executive Order 12356 (formerly 12065) governing the National Security Information Program and Executive Order 10450 governing the granting of access authorizations (clearances) for GAO employees.

This Office is a Legislative Branch agency and therefore it is technically not bound by the above cited Executive Orders which by their terms are applicable only to Executive Branch agencies and departments. However, in the interest of national security, the guidelines in those Orders should be followed by our Office as a matter of policy. Furthermore, in certain instances Congress has directed this Office to follow the guidelines set forth in these Executive Orders. See for example 31 U.S.C. § 53(f)(5) and 31 U.S.C. § 54(e). Accordingly, this Office should follow the requirements of these two Executive Orders to the extent feasible. The Office of General Counsel should be consulted in any case where deviation is considered necessary.

With regard to your question concerning the ~~authority of this Office to~~ issue access authorizations, such authority is inherent in the Comptroller General's authority to appoint employees and promulgate regulations governing their conduct contained in 31 U.S.C. § 52-2.

DIGEST

Director of OSS questions whether GAO is bound by Executive Orders 12356 and 10450 which govern the national security information program and issuance of security clearances to employees, respectively. Because GAO is a Legislative Branch agency, it is technically not bound by these Executive Orders which are applicable only to the Executive Branch. However, in the interest of national security, GAO should follow these orders as a matter of policy. Also GAO is required by statute to follow these guidelines in certain instances. 31 U.S.C. § 53 and 54. The authority for GAO to issue clearances stems from employee appointment authority contained in 31 U.S.C. § 52-2.

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